

Appl. No. : 10/728,728
Filed : December 5, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:
inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,
percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system;
expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile; and
releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraining tubular jacket.
26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, additionally comprising the step of inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile.
27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.
28. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.
29. (Original) The method of Claim 26, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.
30. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of expanding said elongate tubular structure comprises unfolding the elongate tubular structure.
31. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the expanding said elongate tubular structure step comprises radially expanding said elongate tubular structure.
32. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein said releasing the elongate tubular structure from the tubular jacket step comprises tearing said tubular jacket along a perforation.
33. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein said releasing the elongate tubular structure from the tubular jacket step comprises tearing said tubular jacket along a score line.
34. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein said releasing the elongate tubular structure from the tubular jacket step comprises separating said tubular jacket along a longitudinal axis of said jacket.

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35. (Original) The method of Claim 34, further comprising removing the tubular jacket from the elongate tubular structure.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the tubular jacket remains attached to the tubular elongate tubular structure.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 25, further comprising removing the tubular jacket from the elongate tubular structure.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the tubular jacket remains attached to the tubular elongate tubular structure.

39. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of advancing surgical instruments through the elongate tubular structure.

40. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of extracting stones through the elongate tubular structure.

41. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of conducting a biopsy through the elongate tubular structure.

42. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of conducting an antegrade endopyelotomy through the elongate tubular structure.

43. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of resecting transitional cell carcinoma through the elongate tubular structure.

44. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of delivering a drug through the elongate tubular structure.

45. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of conducting a diagnostic procedure through the elongate tubular structure.

46. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of conducting a therapeutic procedure through the elongate tubular structure

47. (New) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,

percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system, the tubular structure having a beveled distal tip;

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expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraint.

48. (New) The method of Claim 47, additionally comprising the step of inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

50. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

51. (New) The method of Claim 48, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

52. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein the step of expanding said elongate tubular structure comprises unfolding the elongate tubular structure.

53. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein the expanding said elongate tubular structure step comprises radially expanding said elongate tubular structure.

54. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein said releasing the elongate tubular structure from the constraint step comprises tearing said constraint along a perforation.

55. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein said releasing the elongate tubular structure from the constraint step comprises tearing said constraint along a score line.

56. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein said releasing the elongate tubular structure from the constraint step comprises separating said constraint along a longitudinal axis of said constraint.

57. (New) The method of Claim 47, further comprising removing the constraint from the elongate tubular structure.

58. (New) The method of Claim 56, wherein the constraint remains attached to the elongate tubular structure.

59. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein the releasing step comprises removing a tubular jacket from the elongate tubular structure.